



File Code:1950

Date: March 29, 2020

Subject: Abandoned Culvert Removal Projects General Scoping

Dear Reader

I am writing to inform you of the Forest Service's proposal to remove a derelict and structurally failing culvert and restore the natural channel, on a stream located on the Yakutat Ranger District. While the roadbed and stream crossing associated with the project site have not been utilized in over fifty years, the culvert remains as a "ghost structure" on the landscape, negatively impacting fish and aquatic resources. The existing structure is a barrier to fish passage at low flows. It is also undersized, restricting stream flow and sediment transport in the system. Finally, the structure is heavily corroded and at risk of a collapse, which would exacerbate the existing impacts. The project site is located approximately 500 meters northwest of the intersection of Cannon Beach Road (FS 9963) and Forest Service Road 9975 (Fig 1).



This activity falls within a category of actions which normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and, therefore, may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. This category of actions is identified in 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(17),:



Restoring wetlands, streams, riparian areas or other water bodies by removing, replacing, or modifying water control structures such as, but not limited to, dams, levees, dikes, ditches, culverts, pipes, drainage tiles, valves, gates, and fencing, to allow waters to flow into natural channels and floodplains and restore natural flow regimes to the extent practicable where valid existing rights or special use authorizations are not unilaterally altered or canceled.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or Nate Catterson at the Yakutat Ranger District (907)-784-3359.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lee Benson', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

LEE A. BENSON
District Ranger